

Against the odds: The Ehime Maru recovery effort

With international attention and media focused on the recovery, Navy divers near conclusion of the recovery efforts as they search for the ninth and final remains of the crew and students from the Ehime Maru.

The ship now rests little more than 100 feet below the surface where more than a \$60 million recovery effort has been underway for more than eight months.

Although an extensive joint-rescue effort immediately followed the collision that sank the Ehime Maru, nine individuals from the ship were

lost moments after impact.

As hope of finding the nine remaining crewmen and students faded, the operation shifted from search and rescue to recovery.

With the odds against the divers and recovery efforts, attempts continued. Many experts thought recovering the remains was a near impossible task, but the Sailors and Navy remained determined.

The diver's reward for their unwavering effort and accomplishment is a simple one: knowing that they are contributing to sending someone's loved one home.



PH3 Joshua L. Pritekel photo

Daylight runs out as U.S. Navy and Japanese divers are lowered to the sea floor to continue the search for nine missing crewmembers aboard the sunken Ehime Maru.



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Navy divers are up at 4:30 a.m. and dive for 11 hours straight.



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Above: Divers quickly remove the dive gear from a U.S. Navy diver to get him into the recompression chamber for decompression. They spend enough time on the bottom that they require time for their bodies to purge the nitrogen built up inside their bodies.

Right: After slipping below the surface for more than an hour, this U.S. Navy diver will sit in the recompression chamber for some time to let the nitrogen in his body slowly escape. U.S. Navy and Japanese divers have been working off the coast of Honolulu, Hawaii recovering the remains of missing crewmembers from the sunken ship Ehime Maru.



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Crewmembers attached to Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One bring up the divers from the second scuba dive on the Ehime Maru after it was relocated to a shallow water site. The divers have so far found eight of the nine missing crewmembers.